



The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.



President Heber Brown and Vice-President Charlie Gray look ahead to big, busy year.

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Open Meeting, March 2.
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VOL. 10, No. 1

January, 1950

The Trail Blazer

published monthly by the

 METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
 Oakland, California

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DEADLINE 10th OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

 All copy subject to editorial revision. Copy
 and pictures to be sent to the Editor. Adver-
 tising copy to be sent to the Advertising
 manager.

ADVERTISING RATE

 Page\$40.00 1/4 Page\$10.00
 Half Page \$20.00 Inch\$ 2.75

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 Charles W. Gray R. M. (Bud) Vogel
 Walter Grondona Mrs. George Walling

NEXT BOARD MEETING

 Date: Thursday, February 2nd
 Time: 8:00 P.M.

 Place: Theatre of Sun Electric Corp.,
 11th and Grove Streets

They're Off! Directors Meet, Map Plans for '50

1950 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

New committees have met and planned work for 1950, according to President Heber. They ask your suggestions and help:

Activities: Chairman, Bud Vogel, assisted by Deane Burton.

Juniors: Kay Walling

Membership: Chairman, Charles W. Gray, assisted by Harold Cummings.

Public Relations: Chairman, James A. Myers; Publicity Director, Blanche Paul.

S.P.C.A.: Chairman, Harold Cummings.

Trail Blazer: Business Mgr. and Director, David Clay Jones; Advertising Manager, John G. Thiel; Editor, Katherine Jones.

Trails: Chairman, George S. Daniels, assisted by Joe Stern.

SAVE THESE DATES!

FRIDAY, Jan. 27—Region 5 Dinner Meeting
Our House, 14874 East 14th Street
San Leandro. \$2.50. Reservations,
Frank Mello, 2558 - 2nd St., Hayward.

SATURDAY, Jan. 28—Wild West Dance,
Veterans Hall, Concord. \$1.00.
Reservations: Geo. Walling, GLencourt 1-8000.

FRIDAY, Feb. 17—4th Annual Boots & Jeans
Dance, Montclair Women's Club.

SATURDAY, Feb. 25—MHA SPRING DANCE.

THURSDAY, Mar. 2—TRAIL RIDE MOVIES
and MHA MEETING, Theatre of Sun Electric
Corp., 11th and Grove Sts.

SUNDAY, Mar. 26—12th Annual Bit & Spur
Horse Show, Cressmount.

SUNDAY, May 14—3rd ANNUAL GEORGE
DANIELS TRAIL RIDE and FIELD DAY.

SAT. & SUN., June 24 & 25—MHA HORSE
SHOW.

A combined meeting of the 1949 and 1950 Directors launched the new season on January 5th at the home of James Myers.

New President Heber James Brown announced committee chairmanships and asked for plans.

Activities Chairman Bud Vogel asked that the group assist in setting dates for coming events (see col. 1). Vogel suggested that general membership meetings be held in the theatre of Sun Electric Corporation, at 11th & Grove Sts., which is equipped for movies, is heated and comfortable. First general meeting will feature George Daniels' movies of the 1949 Trail Ride, and a general discussion of trails.

Trail Blazer Business Manager Dave Jones pointed out that a magazine reaching the homes of horse owners provided unique opportunities for advertisers, and stated that full cooperation in securing ads would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Walling reported the Juniors' funds amount to \$198, and that activities for all Juniors are already on the calendar.

Membership Chairman Charles Gray reported that the Juniors' contest was bringing in renewals, and urged members to get their new membership cards this month. Cards will be in two separate colors, to distinguish between juniors and seniors.

Trails Chairman George Daniels asked the Trail Blazer to request suggestions for trail work. He stated that members should be kept informed of all trail work done, and Charles Gray suggested that members be asked to make a separate donation for trails when they pay their dues.

Fred Bemis complimented the 1949 Directors on the fine work done, and assured the 1950 Board of his full cooperation.

James Myers reported on a meeting of the MHA Arena Committee with city officials. It was suggested that Joaquin Miller Arena might not be a feasible place for the 1950 show, due to the large amount of money needed to put the arena in shape.

President Brown told of purchase of a small machine for printing announcements, thus saving on commercial printing costs.

Wild West Show: Before turning the meeting over to President Brown, Past President Myers called for old business. Treasurer Pray reported on the financial status of MHA. Fred Bemis told members that the proceeds of the Wild West Show had been divided equally among MHA, the Rangers, and Region 5, each share being \$70.15.

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12th ANNUAL HOLIDAY

MATINEE HELD AT CRESSMOUNT

The 12th Annual Holiday Matinee held at Cressmount, Sunday, January 3, began the year's activities with a bang. Judges for the show were: R. Chris Hansen, Dr. T. B. Harris and James A. Myers. Officials: Ring Master, Earl Hansen; Announcer, Bob McCarty; Ring Clerk, Willis Nuttall; Ribbon Clerk, Ann Markovits; Number Clerk, Mary Gale; Music, Claire McGlynnne and Ruth Spielman; Herald, Dennis McCarthy; Directors, Cornelia Cress and Mary Lou Hutton.

That officious Official Sergeant-At-Arms outdid himself—it was a long while before Lynn Pickler was recognized behind his shrubbery.

Results of the Show: *Intermediate Jumpers*: 1. Helaine Jones, 2. Nina Curley, 3. Jeffrey Hardin, 4. Jo Ann Schetter. *Spongeon's Strip Please*: 1. Linnell Powers, 2. Wilda Rosendahl, 3. Jo Ann Schetter, 4. Ann Conwell. *Musical Kegs*: 1. Frances Dewey, 2. Susan Curley, 3. Ann Taylor, 4. Elizabeth Eubanks. *Point-To-Point cross country chase*: 1. Ann Conwell, 2. Linda Lorimer, 3. Dede Brandes, 4. John Thiel. *Relay Teams for Ladies*: Yellow Team captained by Mrs. Selby Donlon and Mrs. Bolsius, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Blessing, Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Owens. The traditional *Carrot Tree* was won by Indian, 2. Trinity Tim, 3. Noah, 4. Valentine. *Fathers' Class*: 1. Father Burnham, 2. Father Sheldon, 3. Father Strauss, 4. Policeman Pickler. *Balloon Relay by Subalterns*: team consisting of: Peggy Day, Karen Anderson, Susan Tucker Idelle Buckley, Nina Curley and Jackie Pickler.

Members of Upson Downs presented an extravaganza of Follywood personalities. At intermission refreshments were served by Mrs. Selby Donlon, assisted by other members of the Saddle Bags.

AAHMES SHRINE MOUNTED PATROL

New officers for 1950: Emmett Boger, President; David C. Jones, Vice-President; Clarence Simons, Secretary; Jerry Jacobs, Treasurer; Floyd Jacobs, Drill Team Captain.

The Mounted Patrol, led by Capt. Fred L. Bemis, appeared in the opening pageant and half-time ceremonies at the East-West game. It was a pleasure to have Henry Gede with us again; he has been in the Islands for some time.

Si and Lucille Simons and Bill and Frances Older have moved into new homes in the hills. The Olders have stable facilities, and Si plans on building a stable soon.

Dave Jones suffered three broken ribs in a fall—from a stepladder! We have been unable to learn whether it was stirrup leather or latigo that broke. This proves what we have long contended; men shouldn't be asked to do chores around the home—too dangerous.

Diane Lombardi to Head M.H.A. Juniors for 1950

Elections were held Jan. 7th: President, Diane Lombardi; Vice-President, Bernie Cummings; Secretary, Corinne Smith; Treasurer, Arlene Adams; Trail Blazer Reporters, Phebe Brown and Janet Phillips; Activities Chairman, Ronnie Dunniway; Membership Chairman, Carol Cosgrief.

August 6th was set as the date of our horse show, with Phebe Brown committee chairman, assisted by Bernie Cummings, Ronnie Dunniway, Janet Phillips, Corinne Smith.

Two turquoise bracelets were presented to Mrs. Walling for her faithful service during the past year.

First drill of the season will be on Jan. 12th, directed by Charles Hall. The team will elect its drill captain at that time.

Drill Team Score for Year

In 17 appearances during 1949, the M.H.A. Jr. Drill Team took 16 awards, according to Mrs. Kay Walling, Director. The Juniors received 13 trophies and three ribbons for participation in parades and horse shows—a remarkable showing for their first season.

All awards are tastefully arranged atop the piano at Mrs. Walling's. Needed: either more pianos (are you there, Buck Wilkinson?) or an expandable trophy case!

WANTED

YOUR FRIEND — to join M.H.A.

WANTED

YOU — to send your dues for 1950.

WANTED

Trails donations. Add something extra to your \$3.00 dues, to be used only for trails. See any M.H.A. Junior, or send your check to our Treasurer.

MRS. MABEL SMITH
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JRS. COMPETE LIKE MAD FOR M.H.A. MEMBERSHIPS

All Juniors are talking about owning a new outfit made by Frank Kelly—the prize to the Jr. who gets the most M.H.A. memberships during January. Kirby Morgan has donated a western hat for second prize. Thank you, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Morgan. And thanks to all of you who are giving us your renewals and new memberships this month.

Kay and George Walling opened The Tip Jar at the Skyline Kitchen—and found \$24.95. We Jrs. appreciate this, and give an extra vote of thanks to the girls at the Kitchen and to Stan Cosca. Incidentally, another jar has replaced the first, and from all reports it is filling rapidly.

Mrs. Phillips provided some excellent movies about horses for our December meeting. Discussion centered about plans for the snow party which will be held early in February at Strawberry Lake. The charge will be \$3.00 per person, including food. (For information and reservations, call Ronnie Dunniway at SWEETWOOD 8-1036.)

Field Day on Dec. 22nd brought nearly 40 participants to Johnnie Curry's ring. Diane Lombardi was in charge of games, and Bernie Cummings handled the trail ride. The parents served a hot lunch, under Dutch Cummings' very able direction.

Barbara Ishem and Dave Wooten were the champions of the afternoon. The ribbons, a donation, had a certain air of antiquity, some of them being heirlooms dating back to 1932.

WINNER: Barton Heller placed 6th in Western Equitation for children under 12 at the Cow Palace, as we should've told you before now.

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TO THE EDITOR:

(On behalf of the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Assn., George H. Cardinet, Jr. replies to "the outright charge of chicanery and the imputation of dishonesty" contained in a letter published in November. Mr. Cardinet makes these points:)

1. The Ninth Annual Trail Ride was a timed ride over a 90-mile course. While "the time allotted is ample for a horse to negotiate at a walk . . . no discrimination is made against the use of any gait provided it is employed at the proper time and in such places as will conform to generally accepted courtesies of the trail and trail manners. Galloping past riders on a trail is poor trail manners, and 'galloping your horse up a hill and allowing him to cool off in the breeze' is very bad trail manners and poor horsemanship."

2. Judges. Senior Division: Warren Richardson of Healdsburg and Dr. Willis Woodward of Modesto. Junior: Joe Hallett of Lafayette. "There was no collaboration between judges of the two divisions. . . . It is true that a horse belonging to the Junior judge competed in the Senior Division, ridden and trained by a very gracious lady of unimpeachable character. We believe it will suffice to say that the reputation and competency of the two Senior judges is sufficient to squelch the spurious allegations . . ."

3. Weights: "The 150-lb. minimum has been in effect for the full nine years of this ride. . . . This rule is contained in the prospectus which every one of the riders received before making his application. In fact, Miss Thomas consulted with me twice the week previous to the ride on the problem of making the weights." In trying out a western saddle, contrary to recommendation, her horse developed a saddle gall. "She did, however, ride the lighter saddle on the ride, but the injury received did mitigate against the horse's condition and contributed to the poor score she received. . ."

3. Scores: "In comparing the score charts, it is obvious the horse of Miss Beyler's received enough deductions in points on condition alone to definitely put it out of the running. The horse of Mrs. Phelps was unquestionably in fine condition, and finished the ride with a remarkably good score . . . a second place was an achievement of no mean proportion. It was most unfortunate that her admitted poor horsemanship made her horse err in good trail manners."

" . . . We have made it a practice to give each contestant a true and accurate copy of their scores as well as permitting them to view the scores of the winners in their particular division. . . . Each one of these ladies consulted with the judges the day the ride terminated, and knew exactly what they had been marked down for. . ."

(Signed:) Geo. H. Cardinet, Jr., President

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Lari-ettes Elect

Miss Deane Burton was named President at the annual election of Jan. 4th. Other 1950 officers are: Vice-President, Bucky Johnston; Secretary, Dorren Decker; Assistant Secretary, Janet Hansen; Treasurer, Albertine Cosca; Assistant Treasurer, Ethel Albert.

While Santa Claus did not forget those present at the annual Christmas party, his appearance was somewhat overshadowed by the Apache Dance of Joe Stern and Gus Himmelman.

Johnny and Joe Ann Munson's six-pound baby boy joined the M.H.A. Juniors—age: three weeks.

The Lari-ettes welcome new member Janet Hansen, and rejoice that Marianne Pendo, who suffered an injury on the trail, is well on the road to recovery.

Wagon Wheel:

Lucky Carol Cosgrief! She got her pet sorrel, Red, for Christmas. Carol Demlo's pinto, Babe, and Gay George's palomino, Lady, are new boarders. All three girls are MHA Juniors.

Welcome also to Barby Cole's roan, Little Dixie, and Bob Walters' black-and-white pinto stallion, Prince.

Mounted temporarily on crutches, Marianne Pendo visits Wildfire, while sister Dorothy continues trail riding. Both riders Lari-ettes, the horses palominos.

Pinto Ranch:

Ice on water troughs, but Don Bently too busy to notice winter, as he makes Valentine gift belts, purses and saddles.

New boarders: Bob Anderson, Harold Lindholm, Ed Sharp, Socks Gallarico, Barney O'Gary and Andy Anderson.

Don't look now, but Ethel Albert's palomino mare also expects a new boarder, come Spring.

Piedmont Stables:

Welcome back to Mr. and Mrs. Mel Upton and their nice pinto, Rebel; also to Glenn Fisher and his pinto, Pueblo.

New: Rus Ivy's roping saddle, Bill Patten's Chevrolet truck, Jack and Ysabelle Pfeiffer's Lincoln, a silver bit and saddle for Harry Peckham's pinto stallion, Hidalgo. En route to the Rose Bowl, Roy Raphael, Jr. bought the horse formerly owned by his dad, and is having it shipped north for Mr. Raphael.

Skyline Ranch:

Deepest sympathy to Scotty Black, who lost his trick horse, Buddy, after a short illness. Jim is working Mr. and Mrs. Claude Jones' Lucky Holiday in dressage.

Highlight of the season: Sheriff's Posse Christmas party for 50 underprivileged children. Entertainment by Loretta and Joyce Cosca, and Jimmy Black.

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